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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,249	09/11/2003	James V. Candy	IL-10941	8702
24981	7590	08/15/2008		
Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC				
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EXAMINER				
KISH, JAMES M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3737				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/15/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/661,249

Applicant(s)

CANDY ET AL.

Examiner

JAMES KISH

Art Unit

3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-8, 21-25, 41-45 and 61-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-8, 21-25, 41-45 and 61-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ ~~Notice of Informal Patent Application~~
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The two declarations filed on January 30, 2008 under 37 CFR 1.131 are sufficient to overcome the Kerbrat reference. Upon further search and consideration, a new reference to Claire Prada and Mathias Fink entitled "Eigenmodes of the time reversal operator: A solution to selective focusing in multiple-target media" (herein referred to as "Prada") has been discovered and applied in the following Office Action.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 4, 21, 41 and 61 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2, 14, 29 and 44,

respectively, of copending Application No. 11/904,823. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of eigen-decomposition is one method of time reversal processing that is not outside the scope of the utilization of time reversal in Application No. 11/904,823.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 4, 21, 41 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fink (US Patent No. 5,092,336) in view of Prada (Elsevier Sciences B.V.). Fink discloses a method and device for focusing an ultrasound beam delivered by a transducer array on a reflective target in a medium. The distribution in time and the shapes of the echo signals for obtaining reversed signals are reversed and the reversed signals are applied to the respective transducers of the array (see Abstract). The method includes illuminating a zone with an initial unfocused beam. See column 2, lines 25-34. Each time reversal of the echo enhances the ratio between the energy reflected by the target of high reflectivity and the energy reflected or scattered by local irregularities (column 2, lines 45-48). The device comprises a transducer array, a processing channel comprising an A/D converter, memory means and a power transmitter (column 4, lines 1-9). It is possible for the device to carry out ultrasonic hyperthermia. Also, there may be a stone reflecting a beam received from an array of illumination transducers (column 2, lines 10-17). However, Fink does not describe the decomposition of the eigen-values. Prada teaches a method of decomposition of the time-reversal operator in order to provide optimal phase and amplitude laws to focus on specific targets amongst multiple targets in the field of view (see Abstract). Also see the left column of page 156 through the left column of page 158. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate eigen analysis, as taught by Prada, in the system of Fink because each eigenvector of the time reversal operator is associated to one of the point-like targets, thereby allowing focusing on specific scatterers.

Claims 5-8, 22-25, 42-45 and 62-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fink in view of Prada as applied to claims 4, 21, 41 and 61 above, and further in view of Candy (US Patent App. 2001/0037075). Neither Fink nor Prada discuss weighting the eigenvalues. Candy teaches estimating a weighting coefficient of the I -th scatterer of the plurality of scatterers. While not explicitly stated in Candy, it is taught that the eigen-value analysis of Prada allows one of skill in the art to focus on individual scattering signals based on individual scatterers with the use of the eigenvalues (see page 158), thereby providing a means to apply weights, as taught by Candy. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate eigen analysis to provide weighting, as taught by Candy, in order to reconstruct a combined total received field of weighted individual scattered fields from estimates of each of the strongest scatterers (paragraph 30).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES KISH whose telephone number is (571)272-5554. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 ~ Mon. - Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ruth S. Smith/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3737

JMK